

FLORIDA CORRESPONDENCE.

January 19th, 1874.

OKLAHOMA RIVER.

MISS. EDITORS: A sail of from twenty-five miles along the St. John's from Palatka brought us to the mouth of the Oklahawa River, looking scarcely wide enough to admit our boat, much less a steamboat. In fact we sailed past the mouth of the river while looking for it through our glass. Shortly after entering the river, we passed through a dense cypress swamp, and found that the channel selected had no banks, but was indicated by "blazed" marks on the trunks of the towering trees. There is plenty of water, however, to float the craft which navigate the river; but it is a queer kind of navigation, for the hull of the steamers go bumping against one cypress-butt, then another, suggesting to the tyro in this kind of aquatic adventure that possibly he might be wrecked, and subjected, even if he escaped a watery grave, to a miserable death, through the agency of mosquitoes, buzzards, and large alligators.

The sunshine sparkles in the spray which our efficient craft drives from its prow; and then we enter what seems to be a cavern, where the sun never penetrates, the tree-tops interlace, and the tangled vines and innumerable parasites make a solid mass overhead.

The swamps of Florida are as rich in birds as in navigation. It is no wonder that Audubon here found one of the finest fields from which to enrich his great works of natural history. A minute list of the varieties we saw in a single day would fill a page. One of the most attractive was the water-turkey, or snake-bird, which was everywhere to be met with, sitting upon some projecting limb overlooking the water, the body as carefully as possible concealed from view, its head and long neck projecting out, and moving constantly like a black snake; in search of its prey. Your curiosity is excited, you would examine the creature more critically, and you fire at what seems a short, point-blank shot, the bird falls, apparently helpless, in the water, you row rapidly to secure your prize, when, a hundred yards off, head, you suddenly see the snaky head of the "darter" just protruding above the surface of the water; in an instant its lungs are filled with air, and, disappearing again, it reaches a place of safety.

Another conspicuous bird is the large white crane. It is a very effective object in the deep shadows of the cypress as it proudly stalks about, eying with fantastic look the funny tribes it hunts for prey. Especially is it of service in seizing upon the young of the innumerable water-snakes, which everywhere abound. With commendable taste it seems to pay especial attention to the disgusting, slimy, juvenile moccasons which have a taste for sunning themselves on harsh dried leaves of the stunted palmetto.

But the prominent living objects to the stranger in these out-of-the-way places is the alligator, whose paradise is in the swamps of Florida. Here he finds a climate that almost the year round suits his delicate constitution, and while his kindred in the Louisiana swamps find it necessary to retire into the mud to escape the cold winter, the Florida representative of the tribe is happy in the enjoyment of the upper world almost the year round. It is a comical and provoking sight to see these creatures, when indisposed to get out of the way, turn up their piggy eyes in a speculatively mood at the sudden interruption of a rifle ball against their mailed backs; but all the while seemingly unconscious that any harm against their persons was intended. Like Achilles, however, they possess a vulnerable point, which is just in front of the spot where the huge head works upon the spinal column. There is of necessity at this place a joint in the armor, and a successful hunter after much experience seldom lets one of the reptiles escape. If any of the philanthropists have ever objected to the slaughter, the circumstances are not remembered in the swamps and everglades of Florida. More about them in my next.

BRUTUS.

LITERARY NOTICES.

CATALOGUE OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.—The Annual Catalogue of this noble institution has been sent to us. It numbers 417 students, from 29 states and from five foreign countries. The largest patronage is in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Maryland sends 21 and Ohio 18.

The standard at this seat of learning is high, its course comprehensive and thorough, the requirements are judicious and important.

Much advance has been made in every respect under the Presidency of Doctor Mc Cosh.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL FOR FEBRUARY.—As usual this most excellent monthly is filled with just the information for the farm, the garden and the household, which is now needed by me, by you, by us and by every body. If there be a single family in these towns that does not take it they don't know what a channel of useful and important intelligence that omission deprives them of. Orange Judd, New York. \$1.50 a year. Subscriptions received by Editor of Gazette.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

GUARDIAN'S SALE.
IN CHANCERY OF NEW JERSEY.

In the Matter of the Petition of Robert M. Henning, Guardian of Alfred F. De Luce, a Lessee, for the Sale of Real Estate. An order for Sale.

The sale of property in the above stated matter stands adjourned until

Thursday, the 26th, day of February

at 3 o'clock, P. M., at the same place, at the same hours, on the premises on the southeast corner of Mountain Avenue and Union Street, in Montclair, Essex County, N. J.

ROBERT M. HENNING, Guardian.

Iesitory

DIED.

HUESTON.—In Bloomfield, Jan. 31st, Jane Houston, aged 73 years.

EDGAR.—In Bloomfield, Jan. 31st, Edgar son of William and Mary, aged 18 months. Grandson of Mr. Moore.

DANNER.—In Bloomfield, Feb. 9, Cornelius, son of Rev. Danner, aged 57 years.

SWAN WOLF.—In Montclair, Feb. 9, Anna, widow of Samuel Swartzout and daughter of the late Isaac Godoy.

The number of deaths caused by small pox in New York City during last year was 929.

Mr. Bergh is doing a good work in capturing cock fighters. He made a haul of 28 in one pit, in New York, last week, and being arranged before Judge Dixby they were each fined \$20.

James W. Gerard of New York a distinguished lawyer, literateur and philanthropist died last Saturday.

A Peoples' Railway is proposed between New York and Philadelphia. Shares are to be five dollars each, so that everybody can be a shareholder.

New Yorkers are to be commended for their patience, if they can submit to the oppressive taxation of three and one-half percent. We would treat them better if they would come out to Essex County.

One way of keeping Sunday in New York. It is said that 6,000 enjoyed the skating in Central Park last Sunday.

Western Medical Colleges get corps for dissection from New York.

Rev. Dr. Tyng Jr. realized \$10,000 toward the building fund of his new church, from the Bazaar which was opened and conducted for a week in New York for that purpose under his auspices.

CONCERNING WELLS.

BY DR. PINKHAM OF MONTCLAIR.

Much ill health might be prevented by proper care in the construction of wells. As they are now made, nearly all of them, at certain seasons of the year, contain water to a greater or less extent impregnated with poisonous matter from the surface of the ground, and from the soil. Very few wells are built so as to exclude surface water.

By surface water is meant, either that which washes the surface of the ground, or that which, filtering through the soil, becomes loaded with its impurities.

To understand the extent to which surface water is defiled, it is only necessary to call to mind the fact that every square inch of surface, and every cubic inch of soil, is crowded with animal and vegetable life, and that wherever there is life there is death and decay; as well as the deposit of the excreta and eggs of animals, reptiles, and insects; and also countless numbers of vegetable matter in a state of decomposition. Water coming in contact with this, and percolating through it, takes up certain quantity of the things above mentioned, and is hereby rendered anything but a desirable compound. It becomes, indeed, a very witches' broth in its composition and in its deadly effects.

There come not infrequently under the eye of the writer, in his practice as a physician, cases of serious disease caused by making use of this broth as a beverage; and it is to warn the unwary against its use, and to point out a method of constructing wells which will make the entrance of surface water into them impossible, that the writer takes up the pen.

The method of prevention is very simple. The well can be made in the usual way to within eight or ten feet of the surface. Above this point the inner wall should be built of brick (or stone) laid in cement, and carried a foot or more above the surface of the ground. A good coating of cement should be placed on the external surface of this wall, and the remainder of the excavation, exterior to the wall, should be filled with earth well packed down.

Any water finding its way from above into a well constructed in this manner will have passed through eight or ten feet of packed earth, and any foreign matter contained in it will have been entirely filtered out. Any water running along the surface towards such a well will be turned aside by the slight elevation at its entrance. Water from a well made in this way will furnish no object of interest to the microscopist; it will emit no unpleasant odors when allowed to stand in a hot place, however closely it may be confined; it will bring naught but refreshment and health to him who partakes of it.

—From the Christian Union.

CHURCHES—MONTCLAIR.

PROTESTANT.—Rev. J. Ronayne Berry, D. D., Pastor. Services Sunday at 10 A. M. and 7 P. M.

CONGREGATIONAL.—Rev. A. H. Bradford, Pastor. 10th and 7th.

EPISCOPAL.—Rev. James L. Maxwell, Rector. 10th and 4th.

METHODIST.—Rev. James Ayers, Pastor. 10th and 7th.

UNITARIAN.—Rev. J. B. Harrison, Pastor. 10th.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.—Rev. Titus Joslyn, Pastor.

CHURCHES—BLOOMFIELD.

PROTESTANT.—10th and 7th.

WESTMINSTER PRES.—Rev. D. Kennedy, D. D. Pastor. 10th and 7th.

METHODIST.—Rev. H. Spelman, Pastor. 10th and 7th.

BAPTIST.—Rev. W. F. Stubbert, D. D., Pastor. 10th and 7th.

EPISCOPAL.—S. J. Danner, Rector. 10th and 7th.

WATERSIDE MET.—10th and 7th.

WATERSIDE EPISC. CHAPEL.—Sunday service at 4 P. M.

YONAH CHURCHES.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.—Rev. E. V. King, Pastor. Sunday service 10th A. M. and 7th P. M.

CALDWELL CHURCHES.

PROTESTANT.—Rev. C. T. Berry, Pastor.

10th and 7th.

GERMAN PRES.—Rev. J. M. Ensslin, Pastor. 10th and 7th.

WATERSIDE MET.—10th and 7th.

WATERSIDE EPISC. CHAPEL.—Sunday service at 4 P. M.

EDWARD MADISON.

FINE AND BUSINESS STATIONER,

(Jacobs Building),

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FIRST-CLASS FAMILY GROCERIES,

including choice TEAS, SUGARS, COFFEE,

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Everything will be found of best quality, and strictly as represented.

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